



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

DEC 26 2007

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

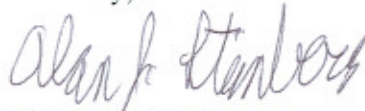
In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) procedures for the preparation of environmental impact statements (EIS), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

Project Name:	Kauneonga Lake Sewer District Extension
Project Number:	XP-972609-06
Purpose of Project:	The project will enable wastewater to be conveyed from the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts to the Kauneonga Lake Sewer District's wastewater treatment facility for appropriate treatment and disposal.
Project Originator:	Town of Bethel, New York
Project Location:	Town of Bethel Sullivan County, New York
Project Description:	The proposed project involves installation of approximately 9,600 linear feet of gravity sewer, 4,560 linear feet of pressure sewer/force main, 39 manholes, and two pumping stations along the shoulder of New York State Route 17B. This new infrastructure will be connected to the Kauneonga Lake Sewer District's existing wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities.
Estimated Eligible Project Costs:	\$2,088,182
EPA Grant:	\$1,148,500

Our environmental review of this project indicates that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. Consequently, we have made a decision not to prepare an EIS on the project. This decision is based on a careful review of the project's environmental information document, a site visit, and other supporting information. All of these documents, along with the Environmental Assessment (copy enclosed), are on file at the offices of the EPA Region 2 and of the Town of Bethel, where they are available for public scrutiny upon request. The EA is also available on EPA Region 2's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm>.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted to EPA for consideration. All comments must be received within 30 calendar days of the date of this finding of no significant impact (FNSI). Please address your comments to: Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after the date of this FNSI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alan J. Steinberg", written in a cursive style.

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Environmental Assessment

I. Project Identification

Name of Project: Kauneonga Lake Sewer District Extension

EPA Project Number: XP-972609-06

Grant Applicant: Town of Bethel
P.O. Box 300
Route 55
White Lake, New York 12786

Project Location: Town of Bethel, Sullivan County, New York

II. Background

The Town of Bethel is located in the center of Sullivan County, New York, approximately 90 miles northwest of New York City, and 20 miles north of the Delaware River (Figure 1). The permanent population of 4,400 expands to about 10,000 during the summer season. The Town of Bethel blends farmland with residential and commercial development, including the Sullivan County Airport and Industrial Park (Figure 2).

The Town is well known as the site of the 1969 Woodstock Festival, which attracted nearly 500,000 people and was a major event in the cultural changes that occurred in the late 1960s. The festival site is currently the location of the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts (Bethel Woods), which is being constructed by a private developer, and which opened its initial phase, including the main concert stage, in 2007 (Figure 3).

The Town's sewer district, the Kauneonga Lake Sewer District (KLSD) provides sanitary sewer service to most of the commercial and residential areas around the Kauneonga Lake. The KLSD's wastewater treatment plant is designed for an average daily flow of 600,000 gallons-per-day, and consistently complies with its New York State Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit limits.

III. Purpose and Need for the Project

The project is needed to dispose of the wastewater generated at Bethel Woods.

The Bethel Woods project produces an average daily wastewater flow estimated at approximately 31,000 gallons-per-day. Currently, this wastewater is collected in a large holding tank designed for that purpose and, as a short-term solution, is periodically trucked to a wastewater treatment facility in Pennsylvania for treatment and disposal.

Pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared on the Bethel Woods project in 2000-2001. The document was subject to extensive public review and discussion. In addition to evaluating the development-related aspects of the performing arts center, various long-term alternatives for treatment and disposal of the wastewater from Bethel Woods were also considered in the EIS.

After evaluating the alternatives and considering comments from all interested parties, the Town decided to create a Performing Arts zoning district. In addition, in May 2006, the Town decided that, rather than have the developer construct and operate an on-site private wastewater treatment facility, it would establish the Kauneonga Lake Sewer District Extension Area, to enable construction of a sewer extension to convey Bethel Woods' wastewater to the KLSD for treatment and disposal.

IV. Description of the Proposed Project

The proposed project involves installation of a sanitary sewer line along the shoulder of Route 17B from the vicinity of the Bethel Woods property to the KLSD's existing sanitary sewer system, a distance of approximately 2.5 miles. The sewer line would receive accumulated wastewater from the wastewater holding tank at Bethel Woods and convey it to the KLSD for treatment and disposal.

The project is composed of the following major components (Figure 4):

- 9,600 linear feet of eight-inch diameter gravity sewer,
- 4,560 linear feet of six-inch diameter force main,
- 39 manholes,
- Two wastewater pumping stations along the sewer line, and
- Various improvements to two of the Sewer District's existing pumping stations to accommodate the Bethel Woods' wastewater flows.

V. Alternatives

Alternative 1 -The Preferred Action: This is the proposed project described above.

Alternatives 2 and 3 - Constructing and Operating an On-Site Wastewater Treatment Plant at the Bethel Woods, discharging either to surface water (Alternative 2) or to groundwater (Alternative 3): Alternatives involving constructing and operating a new stand-alone wastewater treatment plant to service Bethel Woods were thoroughly evaluated in the 2000-2001 SEQR EIS. At that time, the Town and the developer determined that the complexities and costs associated with constructing and operating such a facility in accordance with the stringent effluent limits that would be associated with a discharge to either groundwater or an intermittent stream made both of these alternatives prohibitively expensive and difficult to implement. In addition, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation indicated to the Town that it would be preferable to have the area connect to the KLSD's facilities. Consequently,

alternatives involving construction of wastewater treatment facilities at Bethel Woods were rejected.

Alternative 4 - Alternative Sewer Line Routes: In addition to the preferred alternative of installing the proposed sewer line in the shoulder of Route 17B, the feasibility of utilizing a route along West Shore Road was considered. The West Shore Road route, however, is more rural and would not provide the Town with the benefit of providing sewer service to existing residences and businesses along Route 17B.

Alternative 5 - No Action: If no action is taken, the present situation will continue. Wastewater generated at Bethel Woods will continue to be stored in a holding tank and periodically transported to an out-of-state wastewater facility for treatment and disposal. Long-term trucking of this wastewater out-of-state is not cost-effective, and is inconsistent with the wastewater management recommendations of the SEQR EIS and the Town of Bethel's findings. Consequently, the no action alternative was rejected.

VI. Environmental Consequences

- A. Surface and Groundwater Impacts - There will be no impacts to surface water or groundwater resources. Discharges from the Bethel Woods wastewater holding tank to the sewer extension will be carefully controlled and monitored so as to occur while the Kauneonga Sewer District's Wastewater Treatment is best able to accommodate the wastewater (e.g., during low flow conditions at night). This could enable the treatment plant to operate even more efficiently, by providing an equalized, steady-state, flow of wastewater around-the-clock.
- B. Air Quality - The project area is in attainment of all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. However, fugitive dust emissions and emissions from construction equipment can result in short-term construction-related air quality impacts. Mitigation techniques include but are not limited to:
- wetting or chemically treating exposed earth during construction,
 - limiting construction activities during extremely windy and/or dry conditions,
 - covering materials being transported to and from the project,
 - keeping trucks and other construction equipment clean and properly maintained during construction, and
 - implementing a traffic management plan to minimize delays and ensure that traffic is routed away from residential areas and other sensitive receptors.
- C. Endangered/Threatened Species - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was consulted about the project pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The FWS's January 30, 2007 response letter indicated that, except for the bald eagle and northern monkshood (both federally-listed threatened species), no federally-designated threatened or endangered species or their habitat will be affected by the project.

Subsequently, to determine whether the project could affect the two species named by the FWS, a habitat survey/assessment was prepared by a qualified specialist. Based on the results of the assessment, neither the bald eagle nor the northern monkshood will be affected by the project.

- D. Other Wildlife - There will be short-term impacts on the ability of wildlife to utilize the construction area. These impacts will be minor because there is a sufficient amount of equal or better habitat in the vicinity. Once construction is complete, however, all disturbed areas will be restored to existing conditions. Consequently, there will be no long-term effects on wildlife in the area.
- E. Noise - There will be short-term noise impacts from the construction equipment needed to implement the project. However, this equipment will be required to be equipped with proper mufflers, and the project will adhere to all municipal work schedule restrictions during the construction phase to minimize noise-related impacts to the surrounding community. The proposed project will not increase post-construction noise levels in the area.
- F. Traffic - An extensive traffic analysis was conducted as part of the planning studies for the Bethel Woods project. In addition, the New York State Department of Transportation is in the process of studying Route 17B from Monticello to Fosterday and developing recommendations for improving it. This sewer line project, however, will not result in any significant effect on traffic flow along Route 17B or any local roads.
- G. Cultural Resources - Based on the results of the cultural resources survey prepared by the Town of Bethel for the project, the proposed project will have no effect on any significant cultural resources. Accordingly, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the project and determined, in its October 2, 2007 letter, that it will not impact cultural resources on or eligible for the National or State Registers of Historic Places.
- H. Agricultural Lands - The facilities have been located in a manner that minimizes the disruption of farm enterprises, and in consultation with the Sullivan County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board. In addition, the Town will follow the New York State Department of Agricultural and Markets' *Construction Standards for Water/Sewer Transmission Mains Located Wholly or Partially in an Agricultural District*.
- I. Cumulative Impacts - Due to the nature of this project, no cumulative or secondary impacts are expected to result from its implementation. The potential long-term impacts of the overall Bethel Woods project were considered by the Town prior to its decision to modify the zoning and allow that project to proceed.

VII. Environmental Justice

Demographic Analysis - EPA's demographic analysis utilizes a Geographic Information System (GIS) to estimate the percent minority and percent poverty for the community of concern and compares them to appropriate statistical references. Analysis of the project area indicates that minorities compose less than 13 percent of the population of the local community (compared to 34.73%, the percentage that EPA uses to determine minority areas in rural areas of New York State), and that less than 12 percent of the population has income that is below the poverty level (compared to 23.59 percent, the percentage that EPA uses to identify low income rural areas in New York State). Accordingly, the area does not meet the EPA criteria for being classified an Environmental Justice area.

Environmental Burden - The community's existing environmental burden was similarly estimated by EPA through the use of GIS analysis. EPA uses GIS analysis and the concept of an Environmental Load Profile to compare communities' present environmental load to statewide-derived thresholds. To accomplish this, EPA uses the following three indicators to accomplish this: Toxic Release Inventory, Facility Density, and Air Toxics. As shown in the table below, none of the indicators for the Bethel community exceed their corresponding New York State Threshold values for assessing whether a higher than average environmental burden exists:

Indicators	New York State Threshold Values	Community of Concern (Bethel)
TRI Indicator	5.67	0.03
Facility Density Indicator	56.00	35.38
Air Toxics Cancer Indicator	65.33	13.88
Air Toxics Non-Cancer Indicator	11.30	1.29

VIII. Coordination of Environmental Review

- A. Public Participation - The public was extensively involved in the decision-making process for this project, as well as the overarching Bethel Woods project which it services.
 - a. The Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared pursuant to SEQRA was the subject of a public comment period by the Town. A public hearing on the EIS was held at the White Lake Firehouse on May 14, 2002.
 - b. The Town of Bethel conducted a public hearing on the Kauneonga Lake Sewer District Extension on September 22, 2005, and continued to accept comments from the public and interested agencies until the close of the public comment period on April 6, 2006, a period of over six months.

B. Tribal Nations, Federal, State and Local Agencies Notified and/or Consulted

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
New York State Department of Transportation
New York State Department of Health
Sullivan County Agriculture and Farm Land Protection Board

IX. Reference Documents

- A. *Bethel Performing Arts Center Generic Environmental Impact Statement*, March, April and October (Preliminary, Draft, and Final) 2002
- B. *Map, Plan and Report, Kauneonga Lake Sewer District Extension No.1*, Clough, Harbour& Associates, Final, March 2006
- C. *Environmental Information Document, Kauneonga Lake Sewer District Extension to Serve Bethel Woods*, Eustance and Horowitz, P.C., June 2, 2006
- D. *Bald Eagle and Northern Monkshood Habitat Survey Assessment, Kauneonga Lake Sewer District Extension, 2 Mile Section, Route 17B, Town of Bethel, New York*, Michael Nowicki – Biologist, Ecological Solutions, LLC, March 6, 2007
- E. *Phase 1 Archeological Sensitivity Study and Survey, Kauneonga Lake Sewer District Extension*, Greenhouse Consultants, Inc., August 2007

KAUNEONGA LAKE SEWER DISTRICT EXTENSION BETHEL, NEW YORK



Miles
50

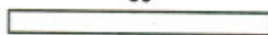
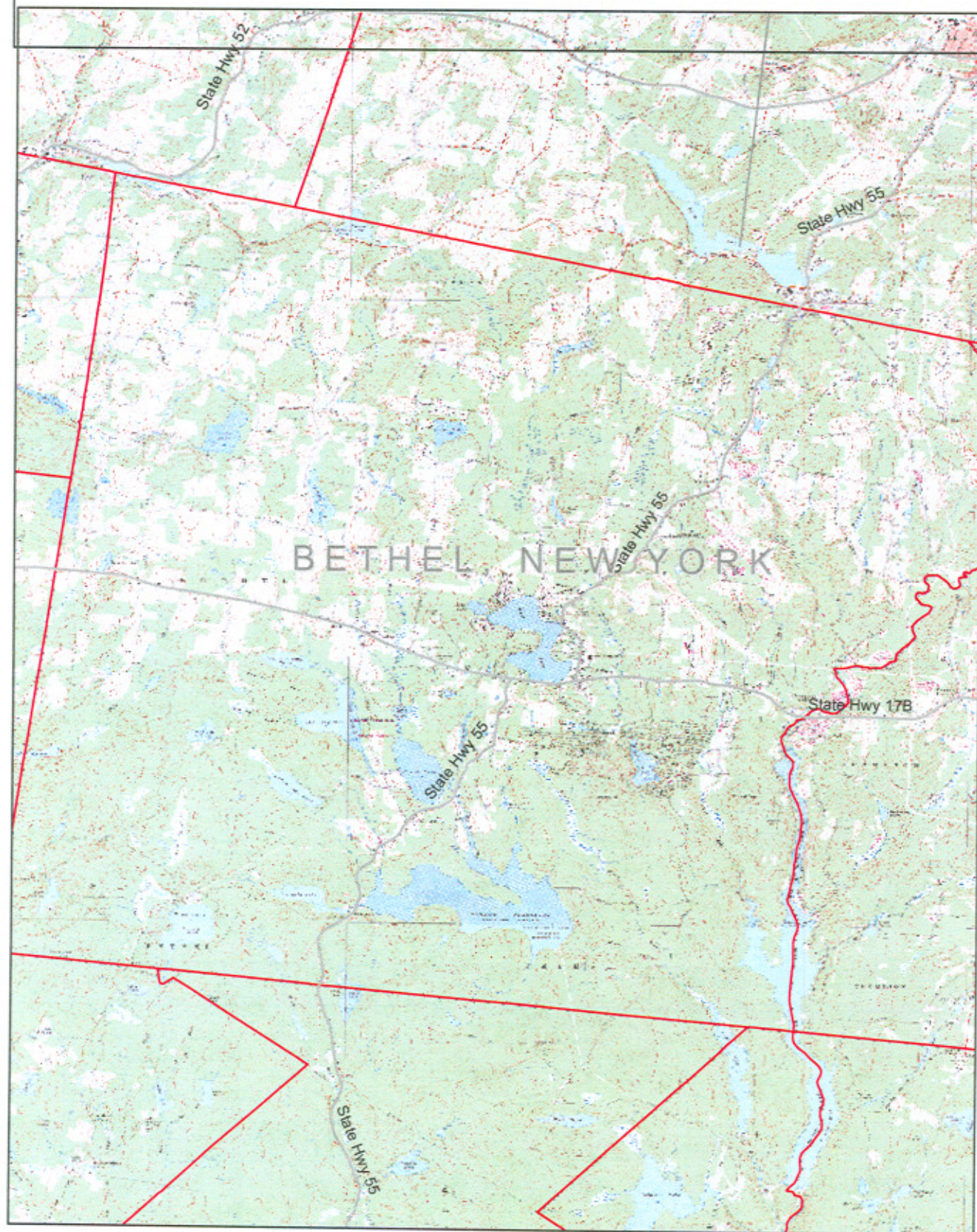


FIGURE 1

TOWN OF BETHEL

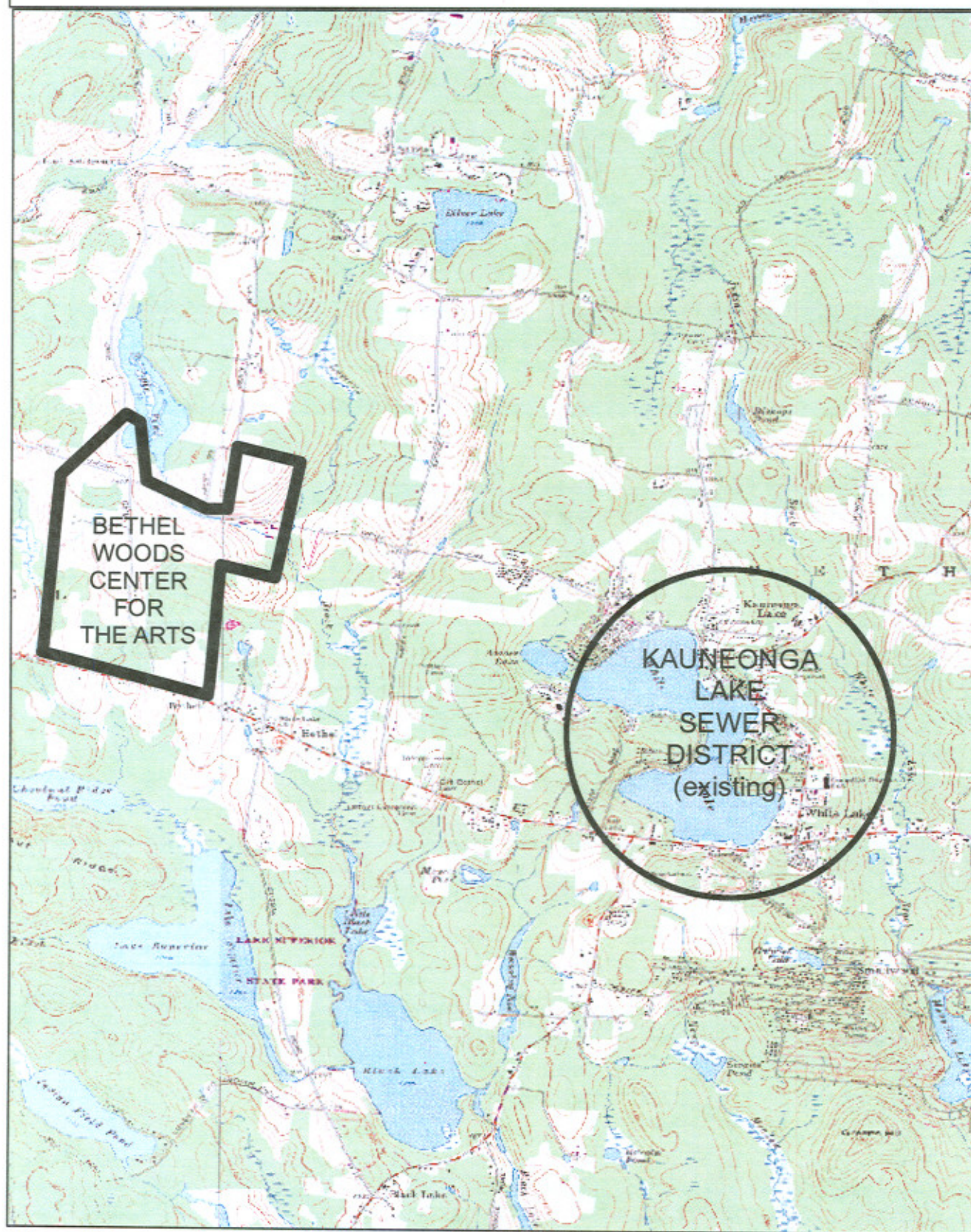


Miles
2



FIGURE 2

TOWN OF BETHEL



Miles
0.9

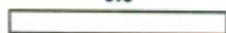
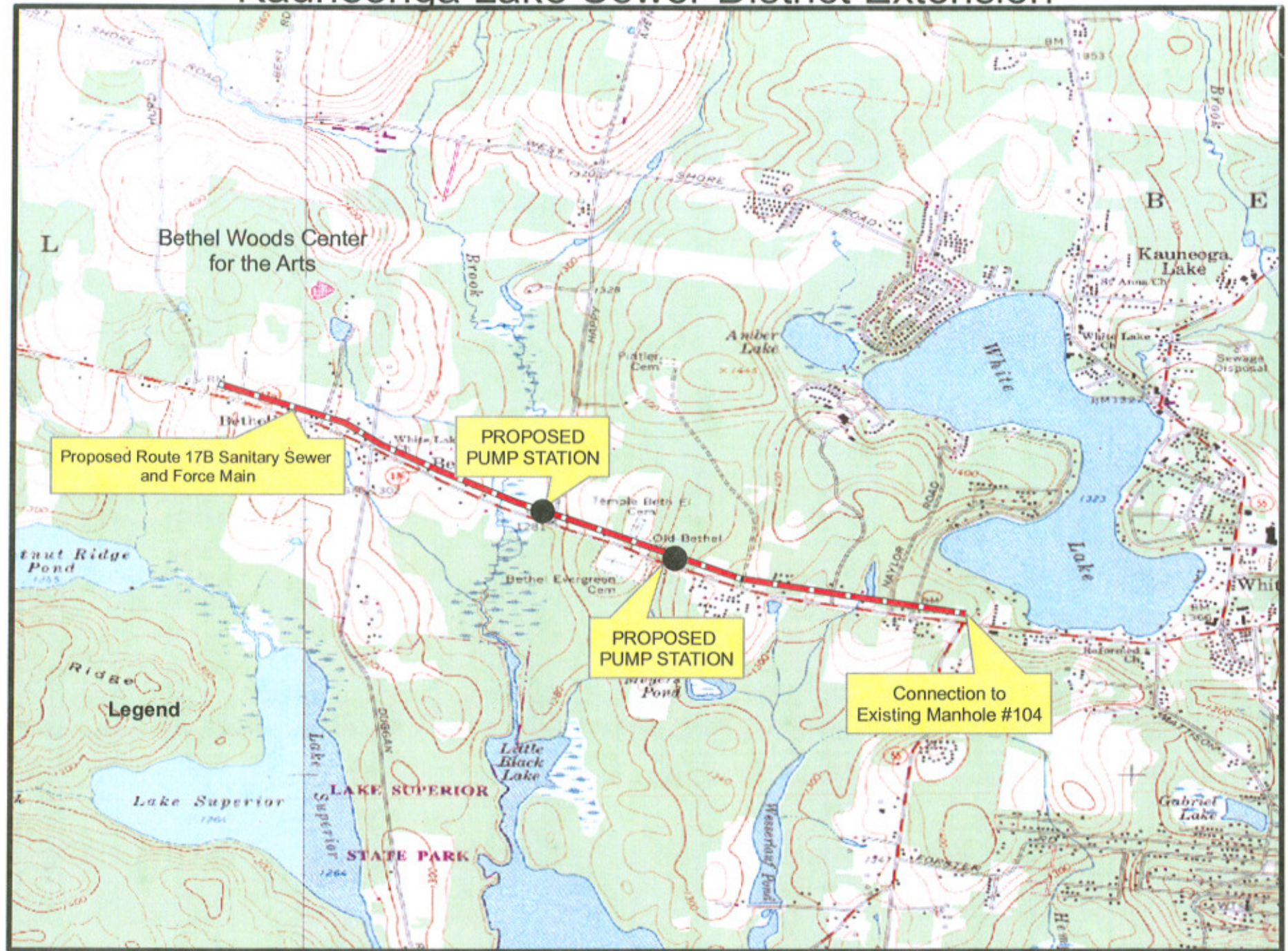


FIGURE 3

Kauneonga Lake Sewer District Extension



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

Location of Proposed Facilities

FIGURE 4